25 years combating drivel

THE BOSTON MISINFORMER

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New Approach to Harbor Garage Development

For nearly four years the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) has been trying to ram its plan to approve a gigantic building on the Harbor Garage site down the throats of the Downtown Waterfront community. BPDA finally determined it couldn't bore committee members into submission and conceded on one aspect of its plan, restricting development to only 50% lot coverage instead of 70%.

However, developer Don Chieftains has surprised everyone with a way to live with 50% lot coverage and still have a gigantic, huge, oversized, mammoth and colossal building.

His plan, shown right in concept, features openings in the roofs and walls that count as open space. The community and the State have not yet commented on this proposal.



Greenway Funding Crisis Averted

Once again MassDOT is threatening to eliminate all its funding for the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway (about one-third of its total budget) even though the Greenway is a State Park that is situated above the depressed Central Artery highway. The Greenback Conservancy argues ad naseum that the Greenway is a unique park, a regional asset, a monument to sustainability and it cures bursitis and therefore deserves the state funds.



Tasteful, sustainable hotel proposed for Greenway Parcel 14

The Boston MisInformer, as a public service, offers some solutions to the funding problem.

- Finally make the Boston Society of Architects happy by allowing some tasteful, sustainable, gluten-free development that will generate money for the Greenway.
- Threaten to overload a section of the Greenway with heavy trucks until it collapses into the underground Central Artery unless the funding is restored.
- Build greenhouses on the Greenway for growing marijuana for sale to passing pedestrians.
- Paint MBTA buses green and charge extra fare to ride "green line" transit to compete with corporate shuttles along the Greenway between North and South stations.
- Open cafes and souvenir shops along the Greenway selling the usual crap at higher prices. Much higher.
- Sell naming rights to each parcel on the Greenway with loud speakers announcing the name of the sponsor of the parcel as you enter it.
- Charge money to put trash in the public trash cans. Tourists won't know any better and the locals will simply keep putting trash in the recycling barrels as ususal.

Governor Bonkers and his "cut to invest" staff are scrutinizing the proposals and are very likely to approve everything if it gets the state off the hook financially.

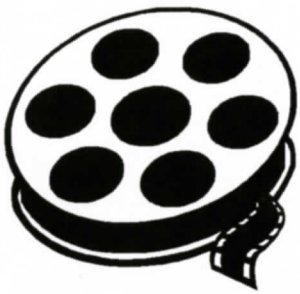
Movies Not to Miss!

La La Land – fantasy about how great this country was in some undefined past.

Moonlight – gripping tale of intrigue as the Massachusetts Legislature raises its own salaries under cover of distractions.

The Shack – surprising story of the runaway bidding on a rundown house in Boston.

Get Out – moving film about the plight of undocumented immigrants in the United States who are being deported without any recourse.



Hidden Figures – documentary exposing how the Massachusetts Legislature votes to approve a budget when only the top legislators know what's in it.

Logan – forward-looking informational movie exploring how Logan Airport can survive the future of rising sea levels.

The Sense of an Ending – nostalgic movie about the past when political compromise was possible.

The Salesman – drama about Democrats in the Baker Administration promoting certain policies.

Stick with Us

Featured recently byAARP, Google is developing a car with a spongy Adhesive Sticky Surface to reduce injuries to pedestrians, dogs and cyclist when struck by the automobile. The spongy surface lessens the impact while the adhesives prevent the victim from being run over. Magnets were part of the original design but tended to adhere to other metal vehicles

Also being considered by Velcro Companies are new Velcro clothes for pedestrians and pets as well as Velcro-covered vehicles. In a press release, the company's president said, "If we are going to allow idiots to walk around city streets immersed in their cell phones oblivious to traffic and street furniture, Velcro clothes are ideal protectuon."

Mayor Walsh is considering allocating a small amount of his small Vision Zero budget for Velcro clothes for meter maids..



Graphic from AARP Bulletin, Sept. 2016

City Hall Plaza Spring Programming

In an illusive attempt to revitalize City Hall Plaza, Mayor Walsh is gearing up for the spring season brought to us by Maryland North, winners of the bid to enliven the plaza. Mayor Walsh gushed over the winter program which looked great from his City Hall fifth-floor vantage, but did little to advance Walsh's vision to "provide a welcoming, enticing communal space."

Despite comments that the plaza skating rink and shacks looked like The Home Depot parking lot with fences and barriers and ramps all over the place, the City's plan for the spring programming is not any better. Responding to the City's request for plaza programming to be egalitarian and draw the biggest possible election-year crowds doing whatever, Maryland North's consultant reported that waste picking typically generates the largest and most diverse crowds at plazas and open spaces. Below, officials confer while preparations are underway for Boston's premier waste-picking venue, free and open to all. And a Beer Garden, too.



Boston City Hall Plaza planning officials preparing for City Hall Plaza waste-picking venue that will feature shaded picnic tables.

Imagine Greater Boston

A regional plan to address shortcomings in Boston's Imagine Boston 2030 plan is being pushed. And in this election year the plan might satisfy those who really wanted to see Indy Car racing in the Seaport District last year.

The Towns of Weston and Lincoln have been working with NASCAR and Bob Kraft to develop a new speedway track and soccer stadium near both towns. This facility would have full access from Rte. 128/I-95 and would also boost MBTA weekend commuter rail ridership. NASCAR races could be run on Friday and Saturday and soccer matches on Sunday (and might spill over to Monday for the TV rights). During the week and off-season, the track could be used for high school driver training and the soccer stadium might have regional bake sales.

The WESTON (We're Environmentally Sound In Our Neighborhood) group has proposed a track for all-electric racing vehicles with a permeable surface. The Town of Lincoln has issued a flyer (Liberals Invite NASCAR Committee Over Lobster Newburg) to brainstorm with the locals about adding luxury car racing as well (Lamborghini and Maserati owners are already signing up).

The non-transit spectators are being offered parking on the large amount of open space/grassy fields in the Towns with parking fees on a sliding scale with a lesser fee for higher-capacity vehicles with more passengers. The commuter rail station will be upgraded with the addition of one Hubway station by the investors and may include many of the high-end stores that have were dropped from the Wynn Casino development.

Imagine Boston 2030

Mayor Walsh's citywide master plan was released in November. Unfortunately recent surveys of Boston households reveal only 11% know anything about the City's first master plan since 1965. Only 2.8% of those had bothered to download the massive document and only 1% of those were actually able to without crashing their computer. About 82% think Imagine Boston is John Lennon's song he wrote when visiting Boston in 1976. To complicate things, the GoBoston 2030 transportation plan was released after Imagine Boston, forcing those handful of motivated people to read two plans to try to figure out what is going on.

Key features of the two plans:

- Focus on five growth areas, four of which will be flooded due to climate change;
- Mayor Walsh will give every child a Marty the Mayor piggy bank to reduce income inequality;
- Establish Boston as a "smart city," using technology so residents can change traffic signals from red to green on their own.
- Transportation Dept. and Hubway will promote high-tech flying bikes to bypass cars blocking the bike lane ▶



The revised Imagine Boston 2030 Plan should, might, maybe, oughta have a detailed implementation plan; after all, 2030 is just 13 years away.

Headlines You'll Never Read

- ✓ New Boston Planning and Development Agency consultant says to re-brand as BRA for transparency
- ✓ Increased Hubway bike use makes significant dent in roadway congestion
- ✓ WalkBoston says health benefits of walking are overrated
- ✓ BPDA admits most public participation for master plans involved same 95 people
- ✓ BPDA's Director of Planning Sara Myerson says something
- ✓ Transportation Planning re-joins BPDA planners; land use/transportation finally to be coordinated
- ✓ Seaport District's transportation problems disappear

What's Up?

North-South Rail Link Solution Identified

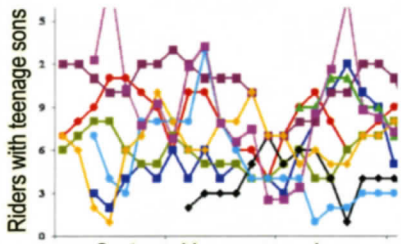
Despite the state legislature "asking" Gov. Bonkers to do something about the transit desert between North and South stations in April 2014, the request for proposals was finally issued last month. The short 8-month study (not a typo but definitely a cruel joke) will be over before MassDOT finishes reading thousands of out-of-context questions about the rail link issue from the public open house held at outside Green Monster concessions at Fenway Park.



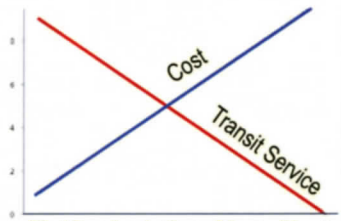
The proposal submitted by a consortium from Morocco seems to zero-in on the Bonkers Administration's "keep it simple" approach to transportation. The Dromedary Group proposed the more versatile ungulate approach to connecting North and South stations, citing easier implementation over tunneling, flexible routing to respond to demand and its extremely fashionable Kate Spade accessories. The Dromedary Group said herder positions would be privatized and dung cleaned up by non-union former drivers for The Ride.

MBTA Service Costs Money to Provide

Recent attempts by Sec. of Transportation Wallop to abandon weekend commuter rail riders by cancelling all service failed. Sec. Wallop presented the results of a complex analysis of potential cost savings to the Board (left), convincing many that she's really smart. However, a Public Records Request reveals the other analysis (right) done by junior high student Trixie Watson for the Board that makes it clear who would win and who would lose.

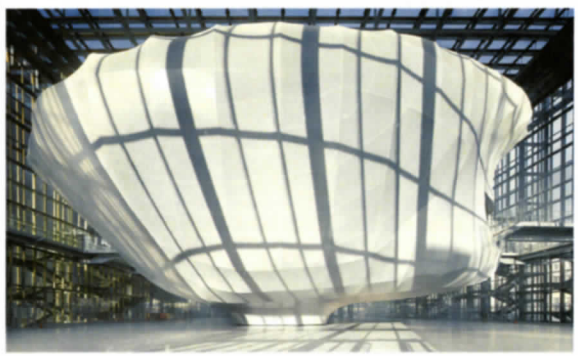


Cost per rider per pages in MBTA Service Plan



"Cut Service to Save Money," by Trixie Watson

What is This?



Be the first to correctly identify this image and win a valuable prize. The usefulness of these clues is not clear.

1) "La Nuvola"
2) BCEC mate
3) Cloud and cube

Send guesses to The Boston Informer at bostoninformer@cs.com. Winner will be chosen randomly from correct entries received by April 6. Photo by Roland Halbe.

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THE BOSTON INFORMER

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Welcome to
The Boston MisInformer,

the annual April Fool's issue of The Boston Informer, an otherwise "serious" newsletter covering development, construction and transportation downtown.

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Proposed Winthrop Square tower will cast shadows on Boston Common and the Public Garden. To the rescue: developer suggests mirrors to direct sun on the Common...



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Blinded by the light!
City considers solar collectors on the Common to harness reflected sunlight

You Were Asking

Q. When will the Longfellow Bridge reconstruction be completed?

A. We understand that in the three years since construction began, most Longfellow Bridge users (other than MBTA riders) have found successful alternate routes and MassDOT is considering extending construction for at least 3 more years. By then the Mass. Avenue bridge will probably need some work, and the job can boast even higher construction job numbers.

Q. The Vision Zero group has come up with ideas to reduce pedestrian and bicycle crashes. Is it true it might repeal the right-turn-on-red law?

A. While the law could be repealed, it would not stop drivers from continuing what was done before.

Q. It seems the Boston Planning and Development Agency is obsessed with branding, taglines, logo identity and other tools of advertisers. What does it all mean?

A. Will Rogers said, "If advertisers spent the same amount of money on improving their products as they do on advertising then they wouldn't have to advertise them."

Q. Has the State come up with a Statewide transportation plan to improve mobility & reduce congestion?

A. No. Rumor has it Sec. of Transportation Wallop's plan will rely on most people using bicycles or walking to solve the problems, meaning anyone with a job will be living in the Boston metro area.

Q. Sea wall barriers between the Harbor Islands, as in Venice, have been suggested to save Boston from sea level rise. This would be HUGELY expensive. How could we afford it?

A. The Federal Government would fund it as a redundant barrier blocking sea-going Mexicans blocked by the border wall.

Q. Over the last 25 years there have been many ideas on what to do with the Old Northern Avenue Bridge. What is the current situation?

A. The current plan appears to be to allow the rusting bridge to fall into the Fort Point Channel and hoping people will forget about it.

Q. I understand the Prudential Center Mall is considering selling hard cheeses and charging the customer to grate the cheese themselves. What gives?

A. Well, the slogan, "Make America grate again" has a nice ring to it.

Q. The City used Legos to explain density and massing concepts to 12-year-olds for the master plan. Sounds dense. Is this effective?

A. No, but the colored blocks and children make good photographs.